

In the Claims

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for imaging excised tissue having a refractive index comprising:

a tray upon which excised tissue of at least several millimeters in thickness is disposed, the tray including a window;

means for clamping said excised tissue upon said tray ~~in a fixed orientation to~~ keep said tissue stationary and against said window; and

optics directed towards the window and the excised tissue for imaging the tissue through the window, ~~a portion of said tray in which said tray contains~~ containing an immersion media medium having a refractive index matching the refractive index of said excised tissue.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising means disposed between said tray and said optics which presents a medium between said tray and said optics optically coupling said optics to said tray.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 9 further comprising indicia applied to said tray for identification of said excised tissue disposed therein.

12-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for imaging excised tissue having a refractive index comprising:

a tray upon which excised tissue is to be disposed for imaging, said tray including a window upon which the excised tissue is adapted to be supported;

~~means a clamp, including a finger, for clamping said excised tissue upon said tray~~ to hold said tissue stationary and against said window; and

optics directed towards the excised tissue ~~through a portion of said tray in which~~ and said window for imaging said excised tissue through said window, said tray contains ~~containing an immersion media medium~~ having a refractive index matching the refractive

index of said excised tissue, ~~wherein said clamping means represents one or more fingers capable of holding said excised tissue upon said tray.~~

22. (Currently amended) The holder apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein said ~~each of said fingers~~ finger has a spring biasing the finger to hold said excised tissue upon said tray.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein said clamping means has a mesh capable of holding said excised tissue upon said tray.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein said clamping means has a membrane capable of holding said excised tissue upon said tray.

25. (Currently amended) A holder ~~for facilitating to support excised tissue during imaging of said excised tissue, said holder~~ comprising a container having a window upon which said excised tissue is adapted to be disposed, and ~~at least one clamp a clamping member extending into in~~ said container ~~onto said excised tissue~~ capable of restraining said excised tissue in a position ~~with respect to~~ against said window, wherein said excised tissue is imaggable through said window.

26. (Currently amended) The holder according to Claim 25 wherein said clamping member ~~represents~~ comprises ~~one or more fingers~~ a finger capable of restraining said excised tissue in a position ~~with respect to~~ against said window.

27. (Currently amended) The holder according to Claim 26 wherein ~~said each of said fingers~~ has a spring ~~biasing~~ biases the finger to restrain said excised tissue ~~with respect to~~ against said window.

28. (Currently amended) The holder according to Claim 25 wherein said clamping member ~~represents~~ comprises a mesh capable of restraining said excised tissue in a position ~~with respect to~~ against said window.

29. (Currently amended) The holder according to Claim 25 wherein said clamping member ~~represents~~ comprises a membrane capable of restraining said excised tissue in a position ~~with respect to~~ against said window.

30. (Currently amended) A method for imaging excised tissue comprising the steps of:  
providing a container having a surface for placement of said tissue;  
restraining said tissue in said container against said surface ~~in a fixed orientation~~  
to keep said tissue stationary and against said surface; and  
imaging said tissue through at least part of said surface ~~of said container~~ against  
which said tissue is held.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A method for imaging excised tissue comprising the steps of:~~  
~~providing a container having a surface for placement of said tissue;~~  
~~restraining said tissue in said container against said surface; and~~  
~~imaging said tissue through at least part of said surface of said container;~~ The  
method according to Claim 30  
wherein said restraining step is carried out with the aid of ~~one or more members~~  
~~extending into~~ a clamping member located within said container.

32. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said clamping member comprises a finger ~~members represent fingers~~.

33. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 32 wherein said restraining step further comprises the step of biasing ~~each of said fingers~~ said finger  
against said tissue to restrain said tissue against said surface.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30 wherein said restraining step is carried out with the aid of a mesh in said container.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 30 wherein said restraining step is carried out with the aid of a membrane in said container.

36. (New) The method according to Claim 30 wherein a plurality of the containers of different container types are used to image respective different types of excised tissues, each container type having associated therewith a respective liquid having a refractive index, the respective liquid being positioned in an imaging path for imaging of the respective tissue and the refractive index of the respective liquid associated with a respective one of said plurality of containers being selected in accordance with the respective refractive index of the type of said excised tissue.

37. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein one of said container types is used to image excised tissue from a kidney and includes a respective first liquid having an index of refraction suitable for imaging excised tissue from the kidney.

38. (New) The method according to Claims 37 wherein a second of said container types is used to image excised tissue from a liver and includes a respective second liquid, of different refractive index from that of said first liquid, and suitable for imaging excised tissue from the liver.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 38 wherein a third of said container types is used to image excised tissue from a cervix and includes a respective third liquid, of different refractive index from that of said first liquid and said second liquid, and suitable for imaging excised tissue from the cervix.

40. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein the liquid also serves as a tissue preservative or fixative.

41. (New) The method according to Claim 30 wherein said container includes an immersion medium having a refractive index suitable as a match for the refractive index of said excised tissue.

42. (New) The method according to Claim 36 wherein each container type includes a window having a first surface upon which the respective excised tissue is engaged during imaging, the respective refractive indices of the windows of the different container types being different from each other and being dependent upon the type of tissue for imaging using the respective container type.

43. (New) The method according to Claim 42 wherein imaging is made by a laser beam.

44. (New) The method according to Claim 43 wherein imaging is made of portions of the tissue several millimeters from the first surface.

45. (New) The method according to Claim 30 wherein imaging is made of portions of the tissue several millimeters from the surface.

46. (New) For use with an imaging system, a tray system for imaging excised tissues having different respective refractive indices, the tray system comprising:

a plurality of trays of different tray types, each tray type having associated therewith a respective medium having a different refractive index from that of the other tray types, the respective medium being adapted to be positioned in an imaging path of the imaging system, the refractive index of a respective medium associated with a respective one of said plurality of trays being selected in accordance with the respective refractive index of the type of excised tissue.

47. (New) The tray system of Claim 46 wherein each tray includes a clamping member for holding a surface of the excised tissue against a surface of the tray for imaging of the surface of the excised tissue.

48. (New) The tray system of Claim 47 wherein the respective media of the different tray types comprise liquids of different refractive indices.

49. (New) The tray system of Claim 46 wherein the respective medium for each tray of the tray system comprises a window and each tray of the tray system includes a clamp member for urging the excised tissue against the window for imaging the respective tissue through the window.

50. (New) An imaging system for imaging excised tissues having different respective refractive indices, the imaging system comprising:

a plurality of trays of different tray types, each tray of each tray type having a surface against which an excised tissue is adapted to be supported for imaging and each tray type having associated therewith a respective medium having a different refractive index from that of the other tray types, the respective medium being adapted to be positioned in an imaging path of the imaging system, the refractive index of a respective medium associated with a respective one of said plurality of trays being selected in accordance with the respective refractive index of the type of excised tissue; and

optics directed towards an excised tissue and establishing the imaging path for imaging the excised tissue through the surface of the tray.